

## CLAIMS

1. A method for initializing a packet-based communications interface between a wireless communication system and a packet-based communication system, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first configuration message from the wireless communication system at a first node on the packet-based communication system, the first configuration message containing destination information and generated by the wireless communication system in response to an initiation procedure;

transmitting a first acknowledgement message from the first node on the packet-based communication system after receiving the first configuration message from the wireless communication system.

2. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 1 wherein the first configuration message has a message type indicator.

3. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 1 wherein the first configuration message has an endflag indicator.

4. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 1 wherein the first configuration message has one or more Internet Protocol endpoint addresses.

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5. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 1 wherein the first configuration message has a message type indicator, an endflag indicator and at least one Internet Protocol endpoint addresses.

6. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a second configuration message from the first node on the packet-based communication system, the second configuration message containing destination information and being transmitted after the first node receives the first configuration message;

receiving a second acknowledgement message at the first node after the wireless communication system receives the second configuration message.

7. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 6 wherein the second configuration message has a message type indicator.

8. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 6 wherein the second configuration message has an endflag indicator.

9. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 6 wherein the second configuration message has one or more Internet Protocol endpoint addresses.

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10. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 6 wherein the second configuration message has a message type indicator, an endflag indicator and at least one Internet Protocol endpoint addresses.

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11. A method for initializing a packet-based communications interface between a wireless communication system and a packet-based communication system, comprising the steps of:
  - receiving a first configuration message from the packet-based communication system, the first configuration message containing destination information;
  - transmitting a first acknowledgement message in response to receiving the first configuration message from the wireless communication system.
12. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 11 wherein the first configuration message has a message type indicator.
13. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 11 wherein the first configuration message has an endflag indicator.
14. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 11 wherein the first configuration message has one or more Internet Protocol endpoint addresses.
15. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 11 wherein the first configuration message has a message type indicator, an endflag indicator and at least one Internet Protocol endpoint addresses.

16. The method of initializing a packet-based communications interface of Claim 11 wherein the first acknowledgement message comprises a cause element identifying a problem with the configuration process.

17. A packet-based interface system coupled between a packet-based network and a wireless communication network comprising:

at least one serving support node on the packet-based network, where said serving support node is capable of transmitting and receiving a configuration message with one or more destination addresses;

a base station subsystem on the wireless communication network, said base station subsystem being capable of transmitting and receiving a configuration message with one or more destination addresses.

18. The system of Claim 17 wherein the interface system transmits a configuration message upon the initiation of a start procedure.

19. The system of Claim 17 wherein the interface system transmits a configuration message upon the initiation of a restart procedure.

20. The system of Claim 17 wherein the interface system transmits a configuration message upon adding endpoint information.

21. The system of Claim 17 wherein the interface system transmits a configuration message upon deleting endpoint information.

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